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# THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

## *A Brief Summary of Economic Conditions*

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Washington, D. C.

JANUARY 1, 1928.

Volume 12, No. 1

### THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Every year has its good and bad effects in agriculture but, on the whole, 1927 was apparently more good than bad. It brought a measure of recovery, following the slump of 1926, to the Cotton Belt and was a fairly good year in the other chief producing sections, with one exception. The exception was the central and eastern section of the Corn Belt. Much of this important region had a poor crop of corn, which fact coupled with a slump in hog prices left the past season a disappointing one.

The crop season was somewhat like the previous one—very backward weather delaying the spring work, then later on heavy rains which hindered haying and harvest and furthered insect damage. However, a remarkably warm, dry September and October pieced out the growing season so that total production of the principal crops was slightly greater than the 10-year average.

The value of the principal crops, based upon prices December 1, was \$8,428,626,000 compared with \$7,793,480,000 a year ago, an increase of more than \$635,000,000.

According to the December estimate, about 10 per cent more winter wheat was sown this fall than a year ago, the greatest increase being in the central Corn Belt States.

The swine industry was hit last spring by a slump in the market, especially the European market, and continued through the season on a level of prices somewhat below the two previous years. The other livestock industries, however, have fared relatively well. Dairymen have operated with a favorable margin between milk and feed prices. Beef cattle prices have climbed steadily and cattlemen are beginning to see daylight once more. Sheep raisers have now rounded out a half-dozen year period of prosperity.

The reports of December 1 indicated a marked reduction in the number of cattle on feed this fall, though the tendency finally was to take on cattle as improvement developed in the corn crop and in fat cattle prices. As to lambs, Colorado and western Nebraska appear to have over 2,130,000 head on feed, compared with 955,000 last year. The Corn Belt, however, reports around 750,000 fewer western lambs on feed than last year and the far West probably 200,000 fewer.

The pig survey made last month indicates an increase of 11 per cent in the fall pig crop of 1927 over the fall crop of 1926. But the report suggests the probability that 6 to 8 per cent fewer sows will farrow next spring than did last spring.

All told, 1927 was a year of well-balanced production. It brought the price level of farm products this fall back up near that of two years ago, which was the highest since 1920.

## KEY REGIONS AT A GLANCE

**The East.**—Mostly given over to winter work indoors or in the woods. Weather was mild the early part of last month but land mostly too wet for plowing. Later came some genuine winter weather. Winter grain reported in good condition in spite of alternate freezing and thawing. Corn mostly husked. Conditions remain generally favorable in dairy industry. General result of the year apparently not greatly different from 1926.

**The South.**—Freezing weather early last month damaged tender truck crops. Also stimulated butchering operations and much pork was put away in very good condition. Only a few fields of cotton yet unpicked in eastern Arkansas, western Oklahoma and elsewhere. At average prices, at the farm, as of December 1 the cotton crop of this year was worth \$1,463,000,000 compared with \$1,132,000,000 a year ago, or \$331,000,000 increase.

**Corn Belt.**—Corn husking interrupted and delayed by blizzards. Whole region now settled into routine of winter work. Winter wheat generally in fine condition, in spite of lack of snow cover during some severe freezes. Some reports of "flu" and other disease among hogs, especially in Iowa. Marked reduction in number of western lambs fed in Corn Belt this fall compared with last. Cattlemen generally well impressed with the position of their industry and with market outlook. Corn crop nominally valued at an increase of \$285,000,000 this year compared with a year ago, based on average prices at the farm December 1, though the bulk of the crop is fed and not sold.

**Wheat Belt.**—Wheat dormant but in good condition in eastern Kansas and northward. But in the plains territory of western Kansas and southward the grain had a hard struggle to get above ground because of drought and after it did make it the plants were frozen back over a wide area last month. Report of December 21 estimated a 10 per cent increase in winter wheat sown this fall as compared with a year ago though the largest increases were in the Central States. In general, the past year was rated as a favorable one among wheat growers.

**Range Country.**—Winter in earnest throughout the north. Ranges mostly covered, stock suffered considerably from severe weather, feeding generally necessary. In the south, where the ranges are open, feed is nevertheless short in many areas for lack of moisture. Snow cover favored winter wheat in much of the north though it was mainly lacking in Wyoming and Colorado. Heavy increase in lamb feeding in Colorado and western Nebraska. Cattlemen optimistic. In general, 1927 was a profitable and encouraging year for the range country.

**Pacific Coast.**—Many reports indicating loss of winter wheat acreage as an aftermath of the unduly heavy fall rains. Low temperatures and snow cover lacking last month in many areas throughout eastern Washington and Oregon. California had to contend with some heavy frosts during December. Not much damage reported to citrus groves, however. Farmers busy with winter crops, pruning vineyards and orchards. Some feeding of range livestock necessary.

## THE TREND OF CROP PRODUCTION

	1913 produc- tion	5-year average, 1922-1926 produc- tion	1926 produc- tion	1927 produc- tion
	<i>Millions</i>	<i>Millions</i>	<i>Millions</i>	<i>Millions</i>
Winter wheat..... bushels.....	523	556	627	552
Spring wheat..... do.....	240	252	204	319
All wheat..... do.....	763	808	831	872
Corn..... do.....	2,447	2,767	2,692	2,786
Oats..... do.....	1,122	1,352	1,247	1,195
Barley..... do.....		193	185	266
Buckwheat..... do.....	14	14	13	16
Flaxseed..... do.....	18	20	19	27
Potatoes, white..... do.....	332	394	354	402
Sweet potatoes..... do.....	59	81	83	94
Tobacco..... pounds.....	954	1,338	1,298	1,238
Peanuts..... do.....		670	632	867
Rice..... bushels.....	25.7	36	42	40
Cotton..... bales.....	14	13.5	18	13
Hay, all..... tons.....	64	91	96	124
Apples, total..... bushels.....	145	199	246	123
Apples, commercial..... barrels.....		34	39	26
Peaches..... bushels.....		54	70	45
Sugar beets..... tons.....		6.8	7.2	7.7
Beans, dry..... bushels.....		16	17	17
Grain sorghums..... do.....		121	138	138

The total value of about 50 crops in 1927 is estimated at \$8,428,626,000 compared to \$7,793,480,000 for the same crops in 1926, an increase of \$635,146,000. The prices are as of December 1, except for some crops sold earlier in the season.

The greatest increases in value were corn \$285,268,000, cotton \$330,714,000, barley \$73,890,000, and oats \$40,694,000. The only really large decrease in value was the \$113,147,000 decrease shown for potatoes, although wheat, hay, apples, peaches, and some other crops show decreases, ranging from 10 to 30 million dollars.

The acreage of principal crops increased from 355,657,000 acres last year to 355,826,000 acres. Yields average 2.1 per cent lower than those of last year, but still average 2.5 per cent above those of the last 10 years.

The gross production of the 17 principal crops was 2.2 per cent less than production last year, but 3.3 per cent greater than the average production during the last 10 years. Crop production per capita is, however, declining, being 3.4 per cent less than last year and 4.8 per cent below the average per capita production during the last 10 years.

## AVERAGE PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS

Actual prices received by producers at local farm markets as reported to the division of crop and livestock estimates of this bureau. Average of reports covering the United States, weighted according to relative importance of district and State.

	5-year average, August, 1909-July, 1914	November average, 1910-1914	November, 1926	October, 1927	November, 1927
Cotton, per lb-----cents	12.4	12.1	11.0	21.0	20.0
Corn, per bu-----do-----	64.2	64.8	66.0	87.6	73.7
Wheat, per bu-----do-----	88.4	88.1	123.6	113.7	110.4
Hay, per ton-----dollars	11.87	11.49	13.22	10.63	10.54
Potatoes, per bu-----cents	69.7	65.0	141.3	97.9	95.4
Oats, per bu-----do-----	39.9	38.4	39.8	44.6	45.1
Beef cattle, per 100 lbs. dollars	5.22	5.09	6.32	7.55	8.00
Hogs, per 100 lbs-----do-----	7.23	7.37	11.45	10.16	8.99
Eggs, per doz-----cents	21.5	23.7	44.9	35.6	41.6
Butter, per lb-----do-----	25.5	26.1	43.5	43.4	44.5
Butterfat, per lb-----do-----			44.8	44.4	45.8
Wool, per lb-----do-----	17.7	16.9	31.6	30.9	31.1
Veal calves, per 100 lbs. dollars	6.75	6.80	9.54	11.04	10.67
Lambs, per 100 lbs-----do-----	5.91	5.35	11.11	11.22	11.42
Horses, each-----do-----	142.00	140.00	75.00	76.00	75.00

The decline in the farm price of wheat, which started in July, continued into November. On November 15 the farm price had reached the lowest point since July, 1924. While the decline was general in all important producing areas, it was generally greater in the important spring-wheat States. In the United States the production of winter wheat remained practically the same as last year, but the larger world supply has exerted a depressing influence on the farm price. The much larger crop of spring wheat has influenced the decline in price of this variety more than any other single factor.

The farm price of corn continued to decline during the period from October 15 to November 15. The favorable weather during the latter part of the season more than offset the poor start. The indicated supply, which has been increasing for the past few months, is the principal cause of the continued decline in the farm prices.

The farm price of hogs dropped sharply during November. October receipts at seven markets were below 1926, but increasing supplies of spring pigs had a depressing effect. Prices ordinarily decline during October and November. This year, however, the decline seems to have occurred more suddenly than usual. During the latter part of October there were heavy marketings of somewhat lighter hogs.

The farm price of beef cattle has followed an upward trend for the past six months. During the period from October 15 to November 15 the price increase was due primarily to the continuance of light receipts.

The farm price increase in eggs was largely seasonal. It might be noted, however, that by November 1 storage holding of eggs had been reduced about 5 per cent below 1926, which is in marked contrast to the excess noted earlier in the season. Movement into distribution has continued large.

## PRICE INDEXES FOR NOVEMBER, 1927

Farm products figures from this bureau; commodity groups from Bureau of Labor Statistics (latter shown to nearest whole number). Shows year ago and latest available month.

## FARM PRODUCTS

[Prices at the farm; August, 1909-July, 1914=100]

	No- vem- ber, 1926	Oc- to- ber, 1927	No- vem- ber, 1927	Month's trend
Cotton.....	89	169	161	Lower.
Corn.....	103	136	115	Do.
Wheat.....	140	129	126	Do.
Hay.....	111	90	89	Do.
Potatoes.....	203	140	137	Do.
Beef cattle.....	122	145	154	Higher.
Hogs.....	158	140	124	Lower.
Eggs.....	209	166	193	Higher.
Butter.....	171	170	175	Do.
Wool.....	178	174	175	Do.

## COMMODITY GROUPS

[Wholesale prices; 1910-1914=100]<sup>1</sup>

	No- vem- ber, 1926	Oc- to- ber, 1927	No- vem- ber, 1927	Month's trend
Farm products.....	135	153	153	Unchanged.
Food, etc.....	150	152	153	Higher.
Cloths and clothing.....	173	182	180	Lower.
Fuel and lighting.....	221	183	181	Do.
Metal and metal products.....	136	126	126	Unchanged.
Building materials.....	179	163	161	Lower.
Chemicals, etc.....	127	121	122	Higher.
House-furnishing goods.....	165	163	164	Do.
All commodities.....	151	153	152	Lower.

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics index numbers converted to 1910-1914 base.

## RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER

[At November, 1927, farm prices; August, 1909-July, 1914=100]

In terms of—	Of a unit of—				
	Cotton	Corn	Wheat	Hay	Pota-toes
All commodities.....	106	75	83	58	90
Cloths, etc.....	90	64	70	49	76
Fuel, etc.....	89	63	70	49	76
Metals, etc.....	128	91	100	70	108
Building materials.....	100	71	78	55	85
House-furnishing goods.....	98	70	77	54	84

In terms of—	Of a unit of—				
	Beef cattle	Hogs	Eggs	Butter	Wool
All commodities.....	101	82	127	115	115
Cloths, etc.....	85	69	107	97	97
Fuel, etc.....	85	69	107	96	97
Metals, etc.....	122	98	153	138	138
Building materials.....	95	77	120	108	108
House-furnishing goods.....	94	76	118	106	107

November witnessed declines in the unit purchasing power of the important crops listed above. The cotton index declined 5 points from the previous month, corn 14 points, wheat 1 point, hay 1 point, potatoes 2 points.

Among the livestock products noted above hogs declined 10 points in indicated purchasing power, but all the others advanced: Beef cattle 6 points, eggs 19 points, butter 4 points, wool 1 point. The relative price movements of each of the livestock products was largely in line with the usual seasonal trend.

The decline in prices of the crops, together with that in hog prices, combined to bring the general price level of farm products down slightly under the previous month. In consequence the index of relative purchasing power of farm products in terms of nonagricultural commodities declined 1 point in November and stood at 91. This compares with an index of 80 one year previous and 87 two years previous.

It is interesting to note in comparison with the above table that in November a year ago the purchasing power of cotton in terms of all commodities was 59, corn 68, wheat 93, hay 74, potatoes 134. Likewise beef cattle stood at 81, hogs 105, eggs 138, butter 113, wool 118.

## GENERAL TREND OF WAGES AND PRICES

[1910-1914=100]

Year and month	General wage level <sup>1</sup>	Farm wages <sup>2</sup>	Retail price of food <sup>3</sup>	Whole-sale price of food <sup>3</sup>	Whole-sale price, all commodities <sup>4</sup>
1910-----		97	96	100	103
1911-----		97	95	96	95
1912-----		101	101	103	101
1913-----		104	103	99	102
1914----- <sup>5</sup>	100	101	106	101	100
1915-----	101	102	104	104	103
1916-----	114	112	117	120	129
1917-----	129	140	151	166	180
1918-----	160	176	174	187	198
1919-----	185	206	192	205	210
1920-----	222	239	210	218	230
1921-----	203	150	158	143	150
1922-----	197	146	146	137	152
1923-----	214	166	151	143	156
1924-----	218	166	150	143	152
1925-----	223	168	162	156	162
1926-----	229	171	166	152	154
November:					
1921-----	191		157	139	141
1922-----	205		149	143	156
1923-----	218		156	148	152
1924-----	218		155	154	153
1925-----	226		172	160	158
1926					
October-----	231	176	165	151	152
November-----	230		167	150	151
December-----	232		167	150	150
1927					
January-----	232	162	164	149	150
February-----	231		161	147	149
March-----	234		159	146	148
April-----	230	166	158	146	147
May-----	230		160	147	147
June-----	230		163	145	146
July-----	228	172	158	144	147
August-----	231		157	145	149
September-----	233		159	149	152
October-----	231	175	161	152	153
November-----	226		161	153	152

<sup>1</sup> Average weekly earnings, New York State factories.<sup>2</sup> Index based on both monthly and daily wages.<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics index numbers converted to 1910-1914 base.<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics.<sup>5</sup> June.

## GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND PURCHASING POWER

[On 5-year base, August, 1909-July, 1914=100]

Year and month	Index numbers of farm prices							Relative purchasing power of farmer's product <sup>2</sup>
	Grains	Fruits and vegetables	Meat animals	Dairy products	Poultry products	Cotton and cotton-seed	All groups, 30 items	
1910	104	91	103	100	104	113	103	102
1911	96	106	87	97	91	101	95	96
1912	106	110	95	103	101	87	99	100
1913	92	92	108	100	101	97	100	105
1914	103	100	112	100	105	85	102	97
1915	120	83	104	98	103	78	100	101
1916	126	123	120	102	116	119	117	138
1917	217	202	173	125	157	187	176	182
1918	226	162	202	152	185	245	200	188
1919	231	189	206	173	206	247	209	199
1920	231	249	173	188	222	248	205	241
1921	112	148	108	148	161	101	116	167
1922	105	152	113	134	139	156	124	168
1923	114	136	106	148	145	216	135	171
1924	129	124	109	134	147	211	134	162
1925	156	160	139	137	161	177	147	165
1926	129	189	146	136	156	122	136	161
November—								
1920	157	141	150	189	267	132	158	221
1921	88	162	92	148	210	137	116	161
1922	106	101	108	140	187	186	126	175
1923	110	114	100	157	191	238	136	163
1924	147	108	115	132	203	179	137	160
1925	138	194	136	146	208	144	144	166
1926	121	142	142	141	202	88	130	161
1927								
June	140	201	129	132	102	119	130	150
July	139	195	131	130	112	125	130	151
August	138	172	136	129	122	136	132	151
September	134	145	142	135	143	179	140	152
October	128	138	145	139	167	169	139	151
November	120	145	141	141	189	162	138	151

<sup>1</sup> Computed by Bureau of Labor Statistics from wholesale prices of all commodities except those from United States farms. 1910-1914=100.<sup>2</sup> The value of a unit of the farmer's product in exchange for nonagricultural products at wholesale prices, compared with pre-war values. Obtained by dividing index of all groups (30 items) by the index of the wholesale prices of nonagricultural products.

**SUMMARY OF THE YEAR IN VARIOUS STATES**

[Reports from State representatives of the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates of this bureau]

**VIRGINIA**

The total income of Virginia farmers for the year 1927 will be about the same or slightly larger than last year. The distribution of the income, however, will be somewhat different, as eastern trucking sections and the livestock districts of the southwest will show an increase, while the northern and western districts have less.

The composite yield of all crops was 6.9 per cent above the 10-year average. The estimated production of corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes, peanuts, and hay is greater than in 1926, while the production of cotton, all fruits, tobacco, and wheat is less.

The total acreage of all crops was approximately the same as in 1926, but cultivated crops showed a decrease, while hay crops were larger. More food and feed crops were produced this season than usual.

Virginia farmers derive their income principally from the following products in order of their importance: Tobacco, potatoes, livestock, poultry products, dairy products, wheat, fruits, cotton, and peanuts.

Tobacco is the principal money crop for approximately one-fourth of all farmers in the State. The total production of all types was less than last year, but the flue-cured crop, which is grown in the south-central counties, was slightly larger. Prices for this type, however, have averaged approximately 10 per cent less than in 1926. The fire-cured growers of central Virginia reduced their acreage approximately 25 per cent. As a result of the small production and an increase of exports of this type, prices are averaging 10 to 20 per cent above last year.

The early potato crop was one of the largest ever produced in the State, and prices were fair, so the crop proved profitable to most growers. Most of the truck crops sold well, and as a rule growers have had the best season for a number of years.

The income from livestock sold and slaughtered, owing to an increase in the prices of cattle, will be slightly larger than last year, so farmers in southwest Virginia, where livestock is the principal source of income, are in better condition than last year.

HENRY M. TAYLOR.

**GEORGIA**

Georgia is enjoying a better than average harvest this season, although production of most crops has fallen somewhat below 1926 figures. Peanuts and tobacco, two of south Georgia's substitute cash crops, exceeded last year and the average for the past five years in total production and value. Production of practically all other crops is below 1926, although in total value the comparison with 1926 should be quite favorable.

Cotton, always the big money crop, while falling about 26 per cent below 1926 in total production, will probably exceed last year in total value by about 25 per cent, or approximately \$25,000,000. The improvement in the financial position of our cotton farmers is particularly gratifying in the northern and northeastern counties. This section, in addition to receiving much better prices, has produced a very good crop after several comparatively lean years.

The greatest reduction from last year is found in the southern Piedmont and upper coastal plain counties (the central part of the State), where boll-weevil ravages were particularly severe. The improvement in the price situation will hardly be sufficient to offset the losses in production in this territory.

In the remainder of the coastal plain counties, losses in production were more moderate and should be more than offset by better prices received and increased revenue from other cash crops, such as peanuts, tobacco, watermelons, and other crops produced in this section of diversified farming.

While production of general field crops was better than the average in recent years, fruit crops were rather disappointing, production of peaches, apples, and pears falling much below last year and the five-year average figures. Pecan production will be less than half of last year's crop.

V. C. CHILDS.

#### ALABAMA

We are producing this year around 1,200,000 bales of cotton compared with about 1,500,000 bales last year. This crop was made on a somewhat smaller acreage and with much less cash expenditure than the crop of last year. The aggregate value of this crop will be considerably in excess of that of 1926, due both to the better grade of cotton and to the higher price received for lint and seed. Not many farmers last year received the cost of production. This year practically all will receive at least a fair labor return for the crop. Cotton growers will, therefore, find themselves in much better financial condition than at the end of the previous harvest.

Peanut growers have also made a good crop this year, realizing the best acre yield in a number of years. Peanut prices are lower than last year, but individual crops will return more money from equivalent acreages. In the peanut area, the hog crop has been large in volume and has returned to the grower profitable amounts.

Our corn crop has made about the same acre yield as last year on a slightly increased acreage and we will produce some 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 bushels in excess of 1926.

Minor crops have not made large yields but their production will be sufficient for home use with some surpluses for sale.

Our hay crop this year is about the same size as last and is not sufficient for farm purposes except in scattered areas.

Altogether, there is a much better feeling among farmers because of their better financial status. The expense of this crop will be readily paid and there will be surpluses to be devoted to farm use and to the payment of deferred bills.

Progress is being slowly but steadily made toward meeting the problems of agriculture, and the general economic outlook may be regarded as favorable.

F. W. GIST.

#### LOUISIANA

Generally speaking, exclusive of the territory devastated by the spring floods, Louisiana has enjoyed one of the most favorable crop years in history. While the early part of the season was not so favorable for planting and sowing operations, both the middle and latter part of the season was practically ideal for cultivation and harvesting of crops. The three big money crops in the State, namely, cotton, rice and sugar cane, have done well.

The average yield per acre of lint cotton, while not as much as in 1926, has been above the 10-year average yield, and the price has been considerably higher than last year.

The rice crop has yielded well this year. Indeed the season has been almost ideal for the growing, harvesting, and threshing of this crop. However, prices received by growers have been unsatisfactory.

Sugar cane has done well on the acreage free from spring overflows. The older varieties have yielded considerably better than usual, while the new POJ canes have made a very fine growth and produced a very satisfactory tonnage. Fall planting of cane is practically completed, and grinding operations are in full blast with some factories already finished with this year's run.

Corn and hay crops have both done well. In much of the country flooded in the spring in the Delta parishes of the Mississippi River and more especially in the Atchafalaya Basin country, the overflow waters receded too late to plant the ordinary staple crops usually grown. Fall truck crop acreages have been increased in the southern section of this territory.

In the sections flooded in the spring, farmers have had difficulty in financing their farming operations. There has been a scarcity of seed and funds with which to employ labor. There have been no epidemics detrimental to livestock in this State this year, although there were heavy losses of livestock in the flooded country from drowning.

The broken levees along the Mississippi are being repaired as fast as possible, and it is hoped the work will be completed considerably in advance of any rise in the Mississippi River.

LIONEL L. JANES.

TENNESSEE

Poor prices last year for cotton and tobacco together with a wet and late spring caused a substantial decrease in the acreage of most crops. A good growing season with a late fall has about offset the discouraging late start and yields of most crops are about up to average.

The acreage of corn was decreased about 5 per cent. The yield will probably be about one-half bushel less per acre than average and about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  less than the bumper crop of 1926.

The cotton acreage was reduced between 15 and 20 per cent, and yields are slightly below average. The late and open fall has been unusually good for the maturing and harvesting of the crop.

The yield of tobacco is expected to be about 30 pounds per acre higher than average. The crop is very waxy and the quality is said to be the best in years. Due to a small acreage, total production will fall short about 30 per cent of usual, but this high quality crop is expected to bring as many dollars into the tobacco area as the large crop of last year.

The weather has been favorable for sowing wheat and rye in a well prepared seed bed.

S. T. MARSH.

KENTUCKY

Kentucky farmers, as a whole, are in poor financial condition, and seem not to be improving in actual conditions, though some are beginning to be a little more optimistic. Scattered individual exceptions to the poor condition may be found, and the central and northern counties generally are in better condition than the western and south-

ern parts of the State. Officers of both Government and private farm loan agencies are pessimistic.

Crop production this year is sharply lowered from 1926, except for an abundant hay crop and a slight increase in the relatively minor white potato crop chiefly for home consumption. Tobacco, the State's great cash crop, is a third less than 1926 and apparently nearly 45 per cent below the five-year average; corn is about 30 per cent below last year and 20 per cent below average in quantity besides being of relatively low quality. Small grains, sweet potatoes, fruit, and cotton are much lower in production than a year ago.

A large crop of spring lambs of unusually fine quality were marketed from central and northern counties this last summer and breeding ewes have been increased; this has been the one outstandingly profitable line of meat production in Kentucky for several years. Hogs are fairly abundant but prices sagging; beef cattle in demand with prices looking up; farm dairying on small scale has been steadily increasing and found profitable; farm poultry production has materially increased.

The decreased volume of production this year will be partly offset by increased prices in some items. Tobacco prices will not be definitely known until the markets open between December 1 and 15, but scouts and buyers have been reported as offering high prices for barn door sales in the dark type districts in the western half of the State, where production has been reduced several years in succession. Very much reduced crops of both Burley and dark types are expected to boost prices. The two big cooperative tobacco associations apparently will not be able to pool the 1927 crop, due to failure of farmers to sign the contracts, and auction selling is to be used in association warehouses.

Land values are low, with buyers very scarce. Some slight inquiry is reported, by Government and private farm loan agencies, from people wanting to trade equities in town property for farms, due to slowing down industrial conditions or to being disillusioned as to earnings and living costs in cities or towns.

Conditions in central and northern counties have been helped for several years by profitable spring lamb production and by the relatively better prices of Burley tobacco as compared to the five dark types grown in the western half of State, as most of the lambs and Burley tobacco come from the limestone counties of central and northern areas; but even in this area conditions in general are not good and farm indebtedness is general, though not so bad as in the western parts of State.

The farmers' bitterest complaint is that they can not operate at a profit with prices of manufactured goods farmers have to buy so much above prices they receive.

H. F. BRYANT.

#### WEST VIRGINIA

The season was marked by a very late spring, giving crops a late start and causing damage due to late freezes. The spring was followed by excessive rainfall and temperature below normal until September, when warm, dry weather prevailed, improving conditions materially.

Unfavorable seeding caused a material reduction in all spring planted crops except oats, potatoes, and buckwheat, but acreage of all crops increased slightly over last year due to increased hay acreage.

Fruit crops are almost a failure except for the commercial apple crop, which is about 60 per cent of last year, but has a greater value due to higher prices.

Indications are for a 5 per cent reduction in corn acreage from last year due to unfavorable spring and abandonment caused by excessive rainfall at time of cultivation and early frost damage. Early prospects were for poor yields, but improvement at end of season indicated yields above normal. Quality fair.

Farm crops of apples almost a failure except in northern part of State. Commercial crop about 60 per cent of last year's record crop. Fruit somewhat undersize, but quality fair.

Beef cattle scarce and high due to tendency to increase dairying in recent years, and to reduction in breeding stock caused by low price levels in past years.

A tendency to increase pork production is indicated by an increase in breeding stock for the fall of 1926 and the spring of 1927. Conditions were favorable for farrowing, resulting in a good percentage of pigs saved and the number of hogs available for market this fall is somewhat in excess of those in the fall of 1926.

Sharp increase in breeding stocks of sheep in past years due to cattle raisers turning to sheep production because of better market for sheep and lambs.

Spring conditions were ideal for lambing and growth of young lambs and with the sharp increase in breeding stocks the State's lamb crop is estimated to be 22 per cent larger than in 1926.

BARNARD GIBBS.

#### NEBRASKA

The year 1927 is a banner crop production year for Nebraska. All crops except one exceed both last year and the five-year average production. Three crops made new high records of production, and two crops are taking second, and two crops third place on the record of production. Livestock, on the other hand, is below last year in numbers and below the five-year average. Prices of many farm commodities have averaged higher, and agriculture has improved considerably.

Fall wheat came through the winter in excellent condition and broke all records of production. The cool, wet spring which was highly favorable for wheat delayed the planting of oats and corn but other crops were planted at the usual time. A few hot, windy days in July injured late oats and this is the only crop that did not exceed the average production by a considerable margin.

The unusual happened when a corn crop that is second largest on record followed a record wheat crop. Cool, wet weather which favored wheat not only delayed corn planting but retarded progress of the crop until September 1 when high temperatures and favorable weather for maturing corn prevailed until the first general frost of October 31. About 5 per cent of the acreage was injured by a local freeze on September 20, but the balance had a longer season for maturity than usual.

Pasture, hay, and forage crops are exceptionally good. All minor crops did well, among which flax and sugar beets made new records of production. This year will go down on the record as one of the best for crop production in the history of the State.

The expected farm income from large crop production will be offset somewhat by the reduced numbers in every class of livestock. Good

prices in some classes and extremely short pasture, corn, and hay production last year encouraged or forced heavy marketing to an extent that left the number not only below last year but below the five-year average. Livestock feeding was necessarily curtailed.

The present livestock-feeding season will find at least 60 per cent increase in sheep feeding and 6 per cent less hogs. The cattle-feeding situation is still somewhat uncertain. Uncertainty as to the outcome of the corn crop at the beginning of the cattle-feeding season and the high price of feeders checked the run of cattle to feed lots. With corn price considerably below earlier expectations and an abundance of cheap hay, cattle feeding may yet assume usual proportions if feeders are available at prices that are not unreasonably high.

A. E. ANDERSON.

#### MINNESOTA

Minnesota farmers certainly are glad that North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana had such good crops, but for themselves they are not talking very much about big crops.

Dame Nature gave them the cold shoulder all spring, became entirely too warm during the middle of July, and excitedly let fall from her vanity case a lot of red powder on their oats crop. In August she grew cold again, but in September and October was friendly and acted quite decently, giving them a much better corn crop than they had ever hoped to secure.

When Minnesota farmers review the season, they are not as enthusiastic over it as their neighboring States. In fact, they think they were quite shabbily treated this year.

These are the reasons for being somewhat pessimistic:

The value of the principal crops, including all hay, in terms of gross farm value, will be less than last year, and 1926 was below both 1925 and 1924. Returns from the sale of livestock, together with eggs, poultry, wool, and dairy products, may lessen the spread. But it is pretty well assured now, with no exact, comparable data yet available, that the year 1927 in gross farm value will hardly equal that of 1926, and that year was nothing to brag about.

However, in 1926 Minnesota produced a very small hay crop, this year a bumper crop of fine quality. This means that more of the cash crop can be sold, and it will be unnecessary to spend money in the latter part of the winter and early spring for feed. In this manner it will mean to many farmers a considerable saving over the amount expended last year.

Another pleasant thing to consider is that the gross value of farm products this year, while small and insufficient to meet all past and present obligations, is nevertheless spread over the State with considerable equality. This was not the case last year. Such a condition means much to agriculture and business in general.

PAUL H. KIRK.

#### NORTH DAKOTA

Above-normal precipitation, beginning in April, promised very satisfactory conditions for the 1927 crop season. Continued rains during the planting season up to the middle of June, coupled with abnormally cool temperatures resulted in a much less optimistic outlook. Much of the small grain acreage went in late in eastern sections. There was a considerable shift from wheat and oats to barley and

hay crops in the eastern districts where precipitation was unusually heavy. Due to late seeding, an increased percentage of wheat acreage was seeded to the hardier durum varieties.

Beginning with the latter half of June, seasonable growing weather continued through until harvest, and crops rapidly made up for previous slow growth.

In late July there were several hot, sultry days very favorable to development and spread of rust. Rust gained considerable headway, and caused much greater damage than was at first suspected, as indicated by final threshing returns. The greatest damage occurred on the oats crop, and the crop was a total failure for grain in many cases. Wheat and flax yields were cut by rust damage, principally, and final threshing returns were very disappointing. Barley was a satisfactory crop, and corn turned out considerably above early season expectations.

In general, the 1927 season was just about an average year, though early season indications gave promise of "bumper" yields of all crops.

Shipments of livestock during the fall of 1926 were considerably above shipments of previous years, due to a general shortage of all kinds of feed. This fall farmers are rebuilding herds, and, as a consequence, 1927 fall shipments are light.

Pasture and range conditions have been above normal since early this spring, and livestock are in very good flesh. Ample supplies of hay are available, as well as barley and corn, for winter feeding. Shipments of sheep into the State are continuing, as farmers come to realize their value in the control of weeds as well as a good source of income.

PAUL C. NEWMAN.

#### TEXAS

Perhaps the outstanding feature of the 1927 crop season in Texas is the reestablishment of the belief that the farm is primarily the place to make a living. Crops were produced at a smaller outlay for hired labor, and more attention than in years was given to home gardens and meat production.

The reduction of almost 2,000,000 acres in cotton acreage was largely replaced with feed and food crops, with the result that most farmers have had to buy comparatively little this year and are carrying over a surplus to help on the operations of another season.

Although last year's cotton crop was the largest ever raised it netted the Texas grower approximately \$100,000,000 less than the present production, which is 1,300,000 bales below that of 1926. With the exception of the small grains, most crops have brought a greater net return per acre this year than last.

All classes of livestock have done well and returns have been satisfactory. Cattle, sheep, and goats are going into the winter in good condition.

Almost everywhere farmers are in a much better financial condition than in several years. Debts of last year have practically all been liquidated and a surplus remains after the payment of this season's obligations. This situation is reflected in the gross deposits of Federal reserve member banks, which have reached the billion dollar level for the second time in history. Retail trade in the larger centers has been somewhat below that of a year ago, but wholesale distribution shows an increase. Building activity has not reached

last year's high level nor has the production of lumber. Increase, however, is noted in the production and shipments of cement. Distribution of farm implements is considerably above what it was a year ago. Texas textile mills averaged better than 220 pounds of cotton per spindle this year compared with less than 100 per spindle in the United States as a whole.

H. H. SCHUTZ.

#### OKLAHOMA

Winter drought, Hessian fly, and widespread hail damage in the larger grain areas, resulted in low yields of all small grains, verging on complete failure in the Panhandle. Low yields were somewhat compensated by good prices.

Grain sorghums produced an excellent crop, with prices somewhat lower than last year. Production of corn is considerably above average and yields were good in all sections of the State. Hay and forage are better than usual, both in yield and quality. An abundance of roughage is available for feeding Oklahoma livestock, with a surplus for shipment. Broomcorn produced fair yields, but the acreage was small. Prices are better than last year.

The cotton area this year can be divided into two divisions. The area west of longitude 98° produced an excellent crop. More than half of the total crop will be raised there. In the area east of longitude 98° conditions are very spotted with poor yields in all portions and near failure in the extreme eastern and southern portions excepting McCurtain County, which has a good crop. With prices better than last year, many poor fields have been picked that would have been abandoned if prices had been a little lower.

Cattle prices have been on a higher level than a year ago. Pastures have been good, being favored with more moisture than usual, a cool summer and warm fall; in consequence, range cattle were in better condition than usual and marketed somewhat earlier. The general demand for feeder cattle is a little better than for previous years but is on a higher price level. Much stuff is being retained on ranges for stocking up, to take advantage of favorable prices. The tendency to hold cattle for restocking, coupled with an abundance of winter roughage, is expected to cause a smaller volume of cattle to be marketed this fall than for some seasons past.

CARL H. ROBINSON.

#### NEW MEXICO

The year 1927 has not proven a favorable one from a standpoint of crop production in New Mexico. In years of seasonable rainfall the State harvests around 1,330,000 acres of crops, but this year the acreage will not exceed 1,000,000. From 40 to 45 per cent of these crops was grown on irrigated lands, where the yield was fairly good. The remaining crops were grown without irrigation and with very little rainfall. The State had practically no precipitation during the winter of 1926-27, and the drought continued until about the middle of June. As a result the greater part of all winter and spring plantings on unirrigated lands were abandoned, and most of the crops that were harvested by the "dry farmer" were those planted after June 1. These crops were caught in the immature stage by early frost, resulting in a big reduction in the yield.

The corn production is estimated at 2,500,000 bushels, compared with 4,400,000 last year. Out of 219,000 acres of winter wheat

planted only 25,000 acres were harvested, with a yield of only 150,000 bushels, compared with nearly 5,000,000 in 1926. The production of spring wheat, oats, barley, rye, sorghums, and broomcorn was only about one-half of that for 1926.

The cotton acreage is about 25,000 below last year, but the crop is grown almost entirely under irrigation, and the yield per acre will be about 350 pounds. While the crop is now indicated at about 5,000 bales below last year, it will be valued at about \$7,000,000, compared with about \$4,500,000 last year.

Cattle and sheep are in excellent shape to enter winter; ranges are good; the increase has been fair, and the demand and price satisfactory. There has been a decline in number of cattle from 1,290,000 in 1925 to 1,189,000 on January 1, 1927. This was due to drought and forced liquidation resulting from continued low prices. The State will ship about 500,000 head this year.

Sheep increased from 2,100,000 in 1925 to 2,490,000 on January 1, 1927. The sheepmen tided over times of drought and depression with far less losses than the cattlemen. Many stockmen have changed from cattle to sheep. About 600,000 head of sheep will be shipped, of which about 525,000 head are lambs for market. In addition, New Mexico sheepmen will ship about 12,000,000 pounds of wool.

R. F. HARE.

#### UTAH

The gross value of crop production in Utah in 1927 is about \$40,000,000, compared with \$36,000,000 in 1926, and \$50,000,000 in the exceptional year 1925. Of the \$4,000,000 increase in valuation this year compared with last about \$2,000,000 is due to a larger crop of sugar beets, and another \$2,000,000 to a smaller crop of hay which is selling at prices considerably higher than a year ago.

The supply of hay at the beginning of this winter is considerably smaller than at this time last year, but as yet there is no real shortage. The production of 1927 plus the carry-over last May from the 1926 crop are estimated at 30 per cent less than the corresponding total for last year. Feed grains, however, show an increase in production this year of 16 per cent over 1926. A significant feature in the feed-grain crops this year is the big increase in barley. This crop is much more popular among farmers than in the past and its acreage increased 50 per cent over 1926.

The wheat crop this year is about the same as a year ago, or somewhat more than 5,500,000 bushels; alfalfa seed amounts to 87 per cent of last year, or less than 250,000 bushels; the peach crop is slightly more than a year ago; while cherries and apples amounted to considerably less than the production of 1926.

In spite of disease and insect pests, and in some localities scarcity of irrigation water, the sugar-beet crop of Utah has yielded well. Preliminary returns just at harvest time indicated a total production of 649,000 tons this year compared with 415,000 tons in 1926. The acreage planted this year was 63,000 compared with 74,000 in 1926.

FRANK ANDREWS.

#### WYOMING

The season of 1927 was unusual for Wyoming in that practically every section of the State received more than the normal amount of rainfall. Crops were started a little late, but warm weather during

September and October more than compensated for the cool weather during the early part of the season.

The month of August was very unfavorable for harvest, being too wet and cool, which resulted in a lower quality of grain and considerable poorly cured hay.

Along with increased acreages of most crops this year yields have been very good. Potatoes have done unusually well and wild hay has been cut on areas never before used. Dry-land farmers have experienced an exceptionally good year and a general sentiment of satisfaction prevails.

While prices were not especially favorable they were still high enough to make money for the grower, and with a large increase in production the farmers' income will be much greater than for 1926.

With the exception of a severe May blizzard livestock men have experienced a very favorable year. It is probable that about 20 per cent of the lamb crop and a small per cent of the calf crop were lost during May, but the summer range has been excellent and the winter range is above normal. In the southwestern part of the State, though, dry conditions have forced ranchers to ship their stock very close.

Livestock prices, especially for cattle, have been more satisfactory than for years, and restocking is in progress.

D. F. CHRISTY.

#### IDAHO

On a production basis, Idaho agriculture has established a new high record in 1927. This is due partly to an increased harvested acreage, but mainly due to an exceptionally high acre yield for practically all crops.

Although the season started out late, it was characterized by an abundance of irrigation water, well distributed precipitation, and a long favorable season.

The production of wheat, oats, and barley has exceeded all previous years and is materially above the past five-year average. Quality too, is higher—from 1 to 2 points above the five-year average.

A potato crop of 24,280,000 bushels exceeds the previous high production year of 1926 by 50 per cent. Idaho is now the fifth State in importance in potato production whereas five years ago she ranked tenth. Farm and track-side storage facilities have kept pace with production, so that farmers are in a position to market this year's immense crop in an orderly manner.

There were 1,500,000 bushels of the highly prized Great Northern beans produced this year, averaging around 23 bushels per acre. The "pick" will be comparatively low as quality is 95 per cent—2 points higher than the five-year average.

There are five sugar factories operating, compared with three last year. An average yield of 13.8 tons per acre assures a gross return of about \$90 per acre. Two other good cash crops, clover and alfalfa seed, will bring a gross return of around \$3,500,000.

With a short national crop, the Idaho apple growers are particularly fortunate for having 90 per cent of a full crop. There is a market for all apples that will meet the grades, so that around 7,600 cars will be shipped at good prices.

After an excellent summer and fall grazing season, sheep and cattle came off the range extra fat. There is an abundance of field pasture, and ample supplies of hay and other feeds. The lamb crop

was a little better than average and the seasonal price for fat lambs will average up satisfactorily. Cattlemen are in a particularly strong position. Some good range stuff has averaged around \$100 a head.

The poultry and dairy industries are increasing materially. Egg shipments will total about 240 cars, or 10 per cent less than last year. Poultry, 175 cars, or a 49 per cent increase. Butter, 520 cars, an increase of 10 per cent. Cheese, 425 cars, or 15 per cent less than last year.

The cash income from Idaho farms this year will average about 15 per cent greater than last year and probably 10 to 12 per cent higher than the past five-year average.

The highly encouraging features of Idaho agriculture are the great degree of diversification, the high acre yields, and the increased insurance against drought that has resulted from recent construction of additional irrigation reservoirs.

J. H. JACOBSON.

#### CALIFORNIA

The preliminary estimates of the production of the various crops indicate the total tonnage harvested this season will be slightly under that of 1926. Prices in most instances have been well maintained and the total value of all crops will approximate the estimated value in 1926.

In so far as individual crops are concerned, wheat production will exceed that of last year, but owing to adverse weather conditions in the early spring did not come up to expectations. Oats and barley show a marked decrease in production. A larger acreage of rice was planted, but continued rains during November have caused some abandonment of acreage, and but a slight increase in production is expected. There was a decrease in the acreage planted to cotton, and the average yield per acre will not be quite so good as in 1926. Bean production is somewhat under last year. There is an important increase in the acreage planted to grain sorghum and potatoes, with a consequent increase in production for both of these crops.

There was an increase in the acreage devoted to truck crops, with an increase in production over last year, but the unit value is somewhat less, making it more or less doubtful as to whether or not the total value of all truck crops in 1927 will exceed that of the previous year.

Important increases were shown in the acreage of most of California's deciduous-fruit crops. Increased production, however, did not always follow an increase in acreage. The apple crop was about 25 per cent less than last year. Pears showed a decrease in production, but better prices brought the pear growers more money.

The production of clingstone peaches was about the same as last year. Freestone peaches showed a decrease in production. Owing to market conditions a considerable tonnage of clingstone peaches was not harvested. Estimates run from 20 to 25 per cent of the clingstone peach crop unharvested.

Last year's prune crop was the largest on record. This year's crop will be fully 25 per cent larger than in 1926. Owing to the large crop and poor market conditions, a small tonnage of small-sized prunes was not harvested.

There was a slight increase in the production of apricots and a decrease in the production of plums. Prices were fairly good, however, and both of these crops will show greater value than in 1926.

The 1926-27 citrus crop is the largest ever produced in California. The crop now being harvested and which will not all be marketed until the close of October, 1928, will run from 15 to 20 per cent under the production of the past year.

The grape crop grown on only a slightly increased acreage is the largest ever produced. The development of the clearing-house idea and better methods of distribution brought the growers more money than the crop of 1926. It is variously estimated that from 10,000 to 15,000 cars of grapes will not be harvested.

The livestock industry is in a very favorable position at the present time. Range and feed conditions have been good and all classes of livestock generally are in good condition.

The general outlook for the beef cattle industry is the best in the State since 1920. No large gain in the total production of milk and its products is indicated this year, but butter and cheese prices have probably averaged somewhat higher with a consequent increase in the total value of dairy products.

Interest in the sheep industry continues unabated practically throughout all sections of California. There was an increase of about 10 per cent in the number of sheep in 1927 over the previous year. The lamb crop was larger and the movement of lambs to eastern markets was greater than usual with profitable prices generally prevailing. The wool market improved quite noticeably the latter part of the year and the outlook for the sheepman is comparatively good.

The first half of the year the poultry industry was somewhat in the "dumps." Rather poor prices for poultry and eggs prevailed. Since the middle of the year conditions have improved to some extent and the outlook is much better than at the beginning of 1927.

E. E. KAUFMAN.

#### OREGON

Conditions in 1927 were very favorable to the production of grain and hay crops, but not so favorable for fruit crops. Good June rainfall followed by cool weather developed the heaviest per-acre yield of wheat in recent years, but a little wheat in the higher altitudes was damaged by the earlier than usual fall rains. There was some wet weather loss of strawberries in June, and a heavy prune loss resulting from the early fall rains. Late alfalfa hay suffered some rain damage as did the clover seed crop.

Prices, for most crops have been fairly satisfactory, but prunes and some of the small fruits did not bring a very profitable return.

The apple and pear growers had a big problem in connection with removal of the spray residue to bring same within the tolerance permitted by Government and State regulations. Certain types of control apparatus had to be discarded in the midst of the packing season.

Cold wet spring weather reduced the lamb and calf crops to somewhat below the average, but these same weather conditions were very favorable for pasture and range, and summer and early fall marketings were in greater volume and better quality than usual. This year's livestock prices have been fairly satisfactory and supplies have been pretty well cleaned up. Indications are that winter feeding for market will be considerably below last season.

Fall seeding conditions have been very favorable in the principal wheat districts. Growth has been rapid under the abundant moisture

and mild temperatures prevailing and some uneasiness is now being felt over the possibility of heavy winter freezing damage.

F. L. KENT.

#### COLORADO

The season started out in a promising manner for nearly all parts of the State, except the southeastern counties. The fall of 1926 and all the winter of 1927 were dry until about the middle of March, when good rains and snows prevailed over the entire State except the southeast, until about April 15. After this there was no rain until about June 5 in most sections and in the southeast not until about June 15.

However, the season brought out greater production in nearly all of the major and minor crops except hay, sugar beets, and the fruits, apples, peaches, and pears. The greater production, however, was partly offset by lower prices for nearly every product and heavily offset in the case of potatoes, in which the current price is less than a third of the price a year ago. Better prices are being received for hay and fruit, especially.

Good increase in income will occur from corn and the fruits, especially apples. The truck crops generally made good crops, about the same as a year ago, but prices were unfavorably low so that the profit was small, particularly for lettuce, cabbage, and cantaloupes. The latter crop was seriously injured by rust, causing poor quality as well as low prices.

The dry bean crop is usually a good cash crop in Colorado. This year the crop seemed very promising until about the middle of August when a large percentage of the area was hit by rust, which reduced the yield to almost a failure in some sections, so that the crop while somewhat better than last year is far below expectations.

On the whole the farm income direct from crops will be about the same as a year ago, with much less profit from potatoes.

Livestock in all sections has done exceptionally well, with few losses, good ranges and pastures throughout the season, and ample feed for the winter season. There were good lamb, calf, and pig crops. Prices have held about steady for milk cows, horses, and mules; hogs have declined about \$2.60 per hundredweight, offset by gratifying advances in sheep and cattle.

Cattle and sheep have been marketed very satisfactorily, though at somewhat lighter weights than a year ago. To this extent the advances in prices do not mean as much as might be inferred in total income to the growers. The feeders of the State have put into their feed lots nearly as many cattle and more than twice as many sheep as last year. Both the lambs and cattle have been placed at higher cost. The present outlook for satisfactory profits is not encouraging. Some are already beginning to unload in fear of a decline in the markets.

Financial conditions seem to be easier than a year ago. There is said to be ample money to go into the cattle business, even though the prices have advanced greatly over a year ago. It is said some speculators bought cattle during the latter part of August in a way that they have made as much as \$30 per head. Without having the definite figures compiled, it is hard to say what the comparative farm income from all sources will be, but it is estimated to be slightly better than a year ago.

W. W. PUTNAM.

## NORTH CAROLINA

The total production of crops shows that the increased yield of corn overcame the small reduction in acreage. Potatoes showed about a 7 per cent increase from the 6,700,000 bushels produced last year, most of the increase being in the commercial crop with quite a large increase shown in the 7,000 car-lot shipments. Sweet potatoes have quite an appreciable advance over last year in the 10,146,000 bushels estimated for this year.

The major cash crop showed at least 70,000,000 pounds or 17 per cent more of tobacco than last year, with hay almost 200,000 tons more. Peanuts at 36,500,000 pounds indicate almost 35 per cent more than last year's production. Corn, grain, cotton lint, and tobacco indicate a composite value of about \$244,000,000 or almost 11 per cent more than for the 1926 productions.

Cotton is unique in having a 13 per cent reduction in acreage, with probably 10 per cent increase in the total value. While the production of 857,000 bales is far short of last year's 1,213,000 bale crop, the price this year is sufficient to overcome this handicap.

Livestock is becoming more popular. Dairying, swine, and poultry are climbing up in numbers and quality.

North Carolina has been very fortunate in her crops and livestock for the year just closed. Seasons were generally favorable. The several cash crops turned out with good results. Prices have been satisfactory. Economically, the State is in a sound condition. She takes leadership with several crops, notably tobacco.

FRANK PARKER.

## ARKANSAS

The acreage of crops in Arkansas in 1927, exclusive of the area devoted to fruit-tree crops, was slightly under 6,500,000. Cotton occupied just about 3,000,000 of this amount, and the cereal crops about 2,500,000 acres.

The cotton crop will bring approximately \$124,000,000; rice, \$6,688,000; corn, \$39,000,000, and the value of oats and wheat together close to \$3,000,000. The Irish potato crop is worth about \$2,850,000 and the sweet potato crop about \$3,520,000. The tame hay crop, with a production of 751,000 tons, is worth about \$11,025,000, and the wild hay crop on 130,000 acres about \$143,000.

The sugar crops, ribbon and sorghum cane, are worth \$3,500,000.

The tree fruits are worth approximately \$4,075,000, of which apples were worth less than \$1,500,000, with only 20 per cent of a crop. Grapes also fell off to less than one-fourth of a crop and were worth this year only about \$182,000. Strawberries brought close to \$2,300,000, and grapes and other truck crops about \$800,000.

In comparison to last year, cotton and corn, the two major crops, made substantial increases in values. Rice fell behind and hay was about equal. Of the fruit crops, apples were not over 60 per cent of last year and grapes were approximately one-third. Peaches excelled the last year's figures, but strawberries were not quite equal. All other truck crops, with the possible exception of cucumbers, were generally below in total value of production.

Our total valuation, therefore, of all field, fruit, and truck crops is in the neighborhood of \$210,000,000, or slightly less than the total for the year 1925. This means just about \$1,000 per farm for value of production exclusive of timber, livestock, and livestock products.

CHARLES S. BOUTON.

## MISSISSIPPI

From the standpoint of production, the crop season of 1927 in Mississippi was not as favorable as 1926 or 1925, but for most crops may be considered equal or better than average. The total farm value of crops, however, from present indications will be 15 to 20 per cent greater than in 1926, and about 5 per cent more than the average of the past five years, but will probably average about 20 per cent less than the farm value of the 1925 crops.

The production of cotton, the cash crop of the States, will be slightly larger than the average of the past five years, but nearly 30 per cent less than in 1926 and only about two-thirds of the 1925 crop. Higher prices this season, however, will bring the farm value of the crop to 25 or 30 per cent larger than the value of the 1926 crop, and only about 25 per cent below the farm value of the bumper 1925 cotton crop.

The production of corn, the principal feed crop of the State, will be about 7 per cent less than last year or average production, but the hay crop is about 15 per cent larger than the five-year average.

Sweet potatoes, sorghum, and sugar cane gave generally satisfactory yields this season but fruit crops and the pecan crop were much smaller than usual.

The livestock situation is fairly satisfactory. Interest in dairying has been increasing, due largely to the establishment of several condensing plants and cheese factories within the State. Dairy cattle appear to be on the increase in most sections. In several counties many farmers are turning to this enterprise as the main source of cash income.

L. C. HEIDELBERG.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

From a production standpoint it has been a good year for all agricultural products except cotton and fruit. Yet the income from cotton will likely exceed last year due to a better price and, generally, sufficient fruit was available to supply the demand at a fair price. Fair to good yields of small grains were harvested, and corn, hay, sweet potatoes, and practically all forage crops are above the usual.

Due partly to acreage reduction and less fertilizer, but more to boll weevil ravages, the 1927 cotton crop will be only about 72 per cent of that produced last year. Tobacco production increased and although the price averaged below last year the total receipts were larger by about two and one-half million dollars.

Considering both cash income and home supplies South Carolina agriculture is in a much better position than last fall.

There is evidence of increasing interest and slight expansion in most classes of livestock, which is noted principally in purchase of purebred animals, such as bulls, dairy cows, hogs, and sheep for breeding purposes. This renewed interest is mostly due to the effects of the poor cotton crop, for livestock expansion in this State usually varies inversely with cotton production. Eradication of the cattle tick has been completed during the year and the Federal quarantine will be lifted on December 1.

FRANK O. BLACK.

## FLORIDA

Florida citrus and truck crops suffered a series of reverses beginning with the storms of September, 1926, and ending with the cold damage of January, 1927, which was the most severe in 10 years. They still shipped over 2,000,000 boxes of citrus in excess of the preceding season and showed an increase in shipments for most of the truck crops.

Citrus production for the present season is estimated at 2,000,000 boxes under last season, or about like two years ago. Cold damage was followed by dry weather and the setting of fruit was light, especially where cold damage had been most severe. Grapefruit is especially short. Due to the high percentage of late bloom, the shipping season will be long one, and higher prices are expected to largely compensate for the smaller crop.

Truck-crop acreages as a whole are larger than a year ago, especially in the Everglades, where better drainage and improved shipping facilities are causing a much larger acreage to go out. The past season has seen a marked increase in the growing of summer truck crops for home use, and early fall plantings for consumption within the State were also heavier than usual.

Staple crop acreages show no marked changes. The decrease in cotton was made up in increases in peanuts and hay crops. The tobacco acreage is larger than a year ago, and with good yields and quality, this crop has been a profitable one for the growers.

For the livestock, dairy cattle are holding their own, but range cattle are decreasing in number. Hogs have increased although the cholera has caused losses in some sections. Number of sheep remains about stationary. Poultry and egg production are still far below the amount necessary to supply the needs of Florida consumers, and there has been a decided increase in poultry, especially in commercial flocks.

H. A. MARKS.